

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a multimedia system that delivers all of the traditional features of a video distribution system including access, control and monitoring of remote cameras, with added benefits for interactive visual communications, including video conferencing, multicasting, broadcasting, data collection and data transfer. There is no need for routing special cabling or additional wiring because the existing network cabling and equipment are utilized. Therefore, implementation costs are minimized. The present invention provides on-demand dial, control and view of multiple cameras. Additionally, the present invention provides on-board video conferencing capability, remote management capability and priority level and control management. Additionally, the present invention is standards based and provides real-time access of multiple cameras and maximizes the use of COTS.

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